

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A filter, comprising a synthetic filter material having a planar surface formed into a filter structure and having at least one embossment on the planar surface, the embossment having a depth relative to the planar surface which depth is of at least about 1.5 mm and greater than the thickness of the filter material.
2. (currently amended) The filter of claim 1, wherein said synthetic filter material is a hydrocarbon-based material.
3. (original) The filter of claim 1, wherein said synthetic filter material comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyester and mixtures thereof.
4. (currently amended) The filter of claim 1, wherein said filter material has a permeability of to air to of at least about 4 l/m²/s at standard conditions.
5. (original) The filter of claim 1, wherein said embossment

has a depth of at least about 4.0 mm.

6. (original) The filter of claim 1, wherein said embossment has a depth of at least about 5.0 mm.

7. (original) The filter of claim 1, wherein said material has a weight of greater than or equal to about 50 g/m².

8. (original) The filter of claim 1, wherein said embossment has said depth and a width, and wherein a ratio of said depth to said width is at least about 1:10.

9. (currently amended) A method for forming a filter, comprising the steps of:

providing a synthetic filter material having a planar surface and a thickness;

forming at least one embossment into the planar surface of said material, said embossment having a depth relative to said planar surface which is greater than the thickness of the material and of at least about 1.5 mm, so as to provide an embossed synthetic material; and

forming said embossed synthetic material into said filter.

10. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein said filter material is a hydrocarbon-based material.

11. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein said material comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyester and mixtures thereof.

12. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein said filter material has a permeability to air of at least about 4.0 l/m²/s at standard conditions.

13. (original) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of heating said material to a melting point of said material prior to forming said embossment.

14. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein said embossment has a depth of at least about 4.0 mm.

15. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein said step of forming said embossment comprises forming said embossment having a depth of at least about 5.0 mm.

16. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein said embossed

material is substantially free of ruptures at said embossment.

17. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein said material has a weight of greater than or equal to about 50 g/m².

18. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein said embossment has said depth and a width, and wherein a ratio of said depth to said width is at least about 1:10.